

down. The Department charged with keeping Americans safe is set to run out of funding tomorrow all because Republicans in Congress insist on manufacturing political crises instead of working to help hardworking Americans get ahead.

A shutdown would mean that those charged every day with protecting our safety would all be expected to report for duty without any promise of a paycheck. In my home State of New Jersey, that would mean that over 4,000 Department of Homeland Security employees, including nearly 1,600 Active Duty Coast Guard members, would go to work without any pay.

Payments to help Sandy victims recover would also not be able to be processed in the event of a shutdown. Those families have already suffered enough. They don't need a Republican shutdown making things even more difficult.

Ensuring the safety of the American people should never be a partisan issue. And now is the time to come together and do what is right to protect all of our families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

THE HELPING FAMILIES IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ACT

(Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this morning, Connecticut Senator CHRIS MURPHY and I outlined a vision for real bipartisan mental health reform. Our legislation will have some differences but also many similarities.

Both will fix the shortage of psychiatric beds; get more mental health workers, such as psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers to help; integrate physical and mental health care; fix the rule which says severely mentally ill patients on Medicaid can't see two doctors on the same day; and better coordinate the staggering 112 Federal agencies that deal with severe mental illness.

My bill, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, will also allow treatment before tragedy. During the trial of the former marine who killed Iraq war veteran Chris Kyle, the mother of the defendant begged VA doctors to keep her son in psychiatric treatment just days before he shot and killed the decorated sharpshooter.

The reality is the system doesn't respond until after a crisis has occurred, because the only way to get treatment is if the individual is imminently homicidal or suicidal.

We have to fix those problems. We must correct HIPAA so families can help their loved ones get well. We must act now before another 40,000 die by suicide, before thousands more end up in jail, homeless, or victims of crime, and before more families suffer.

I invite Democrats and Republicans to join me as I reintroduce the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of serving on the House Intelligence Committee. And just yesterday, in a hearing entitled "Worldwide Threats," I sat with the Chiefs of our Intelligence Services to learn about those worldwide threats. The meeting was classified, but the summary is this: there are people out there who would count it a smashing success to reap death and destruction on the homeland.

Yet my Republican friends have engineered a situation where, in 2 days, the Department of Homeland Security will shut down. It is not because they don't have an alternative to get in the way of the President's immigration initiative. A judge in Texas ruled with them. Now, I think that judge is going to be overturned, but a judge ruled with them. Yet they are going to shut down the Department of Homeland Security.

I don't understand that, but I have got two questions:

If we shut down DHS and, heaven forbid, there is a natural disaster that destroys a community in Oklahoma or Connecticut, what are we—what are you going to tell the American people?

If, heaven forbid, one of those people who wishes this Nation ill succeeds and the Department of Homeland Security is shut down, what will we—what will you tell the American people?

A TRIBUTE TO CAMILLE JAYNE AND COMMUNITY HOUSE

(Mr. TROTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to Camille Jayne, the chair of the board of The Community House in Birmingham, Michigan. The Community House is a 92-year-old nonprofit organization with a mission to impact the lives of those it serves through education and outreach experiences.

When The Community House was badly in need of a major overhaul, it hired Camille Jayne in 2012. Camille is a strategic business, planning, marketing, and operations expert who brought over 30 years of experience to The Community House. Camille's impact has been tremendous.

In 2011, The Community House had an operating loss, but through

Camille's leadership, she was able to turn things around and put The Community House back on a strong fiscal foundation. Her efforts to rebrand, re-market, and retool every business unit were instrumental in the turnaround.

The Community House is a cornerstone of the Birmingham community. Over 210,000 youth, adults, seniors, and business professionals take advantage of The Community House classes, lectures, and programs each year. All this is accomplished with a small staff of less than 40 people, which is augmented by 700 part-time staff, teachers, and volunteers.

Under Camille's leadership, there is no doubt The Community House will continue to survive and serve southeast Michigan, and I believe the best is yet to come. It is my honor to pay tribute today to Camille James' accomplishments and the great work that continues at the Birmingham Community House.

JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY: MOST DIVERSE CITY IN AMERICA

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Jersey City, New Jersey, on its diversity and economic growth. In the shadows of the Statue of Liberty, Jersey City is the second largest city in New Jersey and was recently named the country's most diverse city.

Jersey City's history as a city of immigrants has contributed to its current economic boom. In the late 19th and early 20th century, an influx of immigrants from Europe flocked to Jersey City to achieve the American Dream. Increasingly, immigrants have now been arriving from South America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East seeking the same American Dream and finding it in Jersey City.

Immigrants to the city have long contributed to the economy by opening small businesses and joining the job market. Just in the past year, Jersey City has seen an upgrade in its credit rating, a continued decline in unemployment, and an ever-increasing skyline. As further proof of Jersey City's diversity, over half of the residents speak a language other than English at home, and the city council is comprised with a wide array of individuals from different ethnic backgrounds.

Jersey City is a true American melting pot, and I applaud Mayor Steve Fulop and the residents of Jersey City on its continued progress.

ALYSSA FERGUSON'S WELL

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share a story with the American people, a story of courage, love, and faith.

It is a story of one of my bosses back home, a young lady, Alyssa Ferguson.

In sixth grade, Alyssa was told that she had cancer and that the cancer would likely take her young life. She was approached by the Sugar Land Make-a-Wish Foundation; but instead of wishing to meet a famous person and turning inward, Alyssa turned outward. Her wish was to have a water well built in rural Africa for people in need.

Last year, Alyssa's wish was granted; the well was dug. And this year, Alyssa's 29 rounds of chemotherapy and 30 days of radiation treatment will pay off as she goes to Africa and sips water out of her well.

I want to thank Alyssa for showing all of us that love and faith overcome all.

May God bless Alyssa Ferguson.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Ms. MENG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today urge my colleagues to pass a Department of Homeland Security funding bill without political strings attached.

This funding is especially relevant to us New Yorkers who, unfortunately, understand too well the consequences of terrorism. Just yesterday, three ISIS supporters were arrested in Brooklyn for their plans to travel abroad to join the terrorist group. Without adequate Homeland Security funding, we might not have caught these terrorists.

The Department of Homeland Security not only protects our borders and airports in ways we experience daily, but also works inconspicuously to guard our community by providing grants and training for law enforcement, transportation, and even local nonprofits.

Currently, DHS is unable to allocate these hundreds of millions of dollars in grants that directly assist our communities and basic infrastructure. These address the unique planning, training, organization, and exercise needs of high-threat urban areas, like New York City.

It is reckless to use Homeland Security funding as a bargaining chip. A mere political disagreement is no excuse to risk an attack on American lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean DHS funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

NATIONAL FAIRYTALE DAY

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, today is national fairytale day, and my office has been having some fun with it on Twitter. I got together with the staff, and we came up with some hashtag liberal fairytales: "If you like your health insurance, you can keep it." "Benghazi was caused by a YouTube video."

But the biggest one seems to be happening right now. It is a liberal fairytale that House Republicans want to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. Weeks ago, we passed a bill fully funding it. It is the Democrats in the Senate who have refused to take up that bill and debate it and vote for closure that are going to close the Department of Homeland Security.

So on national fairytale day, we have got a whopper of a fairytale from the liberals. The fact that the Republicans want to shut down DHS is nothing but a hashtag liberal fairytale.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. NORCROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to have a brief conversation. I spent the last 2 hours in the Committee on Armed Services, where General Keane was talking about sending the right message to our enemies, that America has to stand together as one.

So as we talk about the threats in Armed Services, we are 48 hours from shutting down Homeland Security. Let's say that again: 48 hours from shutting down the security at our airports, at our train stations, at our ports.

This is unthinkable.

I am usually not the guy that says "the sky is falling," but unless we do this in 48 hours, we are sending a message to our enemies: it is open season in America.

We can't send that message.

Please, I am asking my colleagues here in the House and certainly on the other side of the aisle to have a full and open debate on this issue. Let's take the vote. Let's get this done. Let's pass the Homeland Security bill.

□ 1230

PENNSYLVANIA'S OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Pennsylvania is the third-largest natural gas producer in the Nation and continues to drive record-breaking oil and natural gas production. According to new data released by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, last year shale gas production jumped 30 percent in Pennsylvania's Marcellus shale for a

total of 4 trillion cubic feet, which is roughly 16 percent of what the United States consumes on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, communities in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District have benefited greatly from the technological and the safety advancements that make natural gas readily available, and these benefits are not just limited to shale-producing areas.

Families and businesses all across the country are seeing the rewards of shale gas energy produced by hydraulic fracturing. American households are enjoying increases in disposable incomes due to lower costs for energy and energy-intensive products. Mr. Speaker, this success has been made possible due to regulations administered at the State level, not by adding the bureaucracy of the Federal Government.

As cochair of the bipartisan Congressional Natural Gas Caucus, I will continue to explore and promote best practices so that we can highlight the safety and positive economic impacts of natural gas.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, the day after the election, Speaker BOEHNER and Senator MCCONNELL outlined an agenda for the so-called New American Congress, pledging to focus on the people's priorities. Well, they have obviously failed to deliver on this promise, instead allowing anti-immigrant, rightwing radicals to trump the safety of American families.

Mr. Speaker, recent events around the world provide a stark reminder of the threats we face. Yet amid the rising risks of terrorist attack, Republicans are holding critical Homeland Security funding hostage in a misguided attempt to undermine and roll back key protections for immigrant families.

To quote The Washington Post:

The fervor of Republic partisanship is immune to logic beyond an insistence on victory at any cost.

In this case, the cost is some 1,500 DHS personnel in Nevada who would be furloughed or forced to work without pay and nearly \$10 million in grant funding that Nevada counts on to protect the safety of our citizens and the over 40 million visitors who come to Las Vegas every year. Only 2 days remain until DHS shuts down. I call on Republicans: Stop holding it hostage and let's get to work.

FREEDOM RIDERS

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, from time to time in our history, people